

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/769,330	OHTA, KENICHI
	Examiner James A. Thompson	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 04 September 2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4,7,8,10-12,14,17 and 24-26.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 13, lines 7-10, filed 04 September 2007, with respect to the rejection of claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 set forth in items 3-4 of the previous office action, mailed 03 May 2007 has been withdrawn.

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 13, line 11 to page 19, line 9, filed 04 September 2007, with respect to the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) set forth in items 5-9 of said previous office action have been withdrawn.

Examiner agrees with Applicant that Sakai (USPN 6,735,740 B2) does not teach that, when the magnification is designated as a reduction operation, an arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel is performed when the flag data indicates that the image region is a character or figure, and a processing using a nearest neighboring pixel of the target pixel is performed when the flag data indicates that the image region is a mesh. Further, the other cited references do not teach this feature.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 17, 18 and 24-26 are allowed.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 17 and 18 each recite an image processing apparatus which generates flags for each pixel of an image according to the attributes of the region the pixel is in. A pixel's flag indicates if the pixel is in a character, figure or mesh region. Based on the flagged attribute of the pixel, different arithmetic operations are performed when the magnification is designated as a reduction operation. In such a case, when the flag data indicates that the image region is a character or figure, an arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel is performed. When the flag data indicates that the image region is a mesh, a processing using a nearest neighboring pixel of the target pixel is performed. Thus, an improved result for the overall image is obtained when a reduction of the

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magnification is applied to the image data. Independent claims 24-26 also recite these features, but in greater and more limiting detail. The advantage of performing magnification reduction in the manner recited in the independent claims is that the attributes of each image region are processed differently, thus resulting in improved results for the overall image when compared with results obtainable from global magnification reduction.

Examiner has not uncovered any prior art which teaches this particular method of reducing the magnification of an image. While Sakai teaches reducing the magnification of each partial image separately, the reduction of the magnification is performed similarly for each partial image, regardless of the type of image data contained within the partial image. Another reference, Chiba (USPN 6,668,102 B2) also teaches dividing image data according to region attributes. However, Chiba also performs magnification reduction operations in the same manner for each type of region attribute. Chiba divides the document into regions for the purposes of image data organization and image data storage, and not for altering the magnification of the image.

Thus, independent claims 1, 17, 18, and 24-26 are deemed allowable over the prior art. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-12 and 14 are deemed allowable at least due to their respective dependencies.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James A. Thompson
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

JAT
07 November 2007



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